



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson
District 4
Jennifer Terrasa, Vice Chairperson
District 3
Calvin Ball
District 2
Greg Fox
District 5
Courtney Watson
District 1

Minutes (approved)
Budget Work Session
May 14, 2009

Chairperson Mary Kay Sigaty called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. on May 14, 2009, in the C. Vernon Gray Room, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, MD.

Members Present: Calvin Ball (arrived 8:48 a.m.), Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa, and Courtney Watson

The Council discussed the following matters.

Board of Education – Ray Brown

Following the last budget work session, the Superintendent recommended to the Board of Trustees and the Board adopted certain proposed reallocations of funds in the operating budget and various changes to the capital budget. The reallocations and changes were distributed in the form of draft amendments. As a result of the new proposals, the Board of Education has reduced its request for additional funding from \$4.7 million to \$3.7 million. The \$1.0 million dollar difference represents moving planning money for a deferred systemic project to the planning for modernization for two critical schools.

Mr. Brown also confirmed that staff is satisfied with the bid for Mt. Hebron High School, which resulted in funding adjustments discussed in prior work sessions.

Administration – Ray Wacks

The Administration has identified a non-profit that could potentially take over responsibility for the Community Service Sentencing Program. If the effort is successful, then funding would be a combination of a State grant implemented through a Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance and fees for services. There was a general discussion of the scope of the potential program.

On Motion by Ms. Sigaty and seconded by Ms. Terrasa, the Council unanimously moved to go into closed session at 8:59 a.m. pursuant to the provisions of Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(7).

The Council returned from the closed session at 10:44 a.m. and recessed until 11:10 a.m.

The work session reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

Mr. Fox indicated that he anticipated filing a budget amendment to reduce funding to Healthy Howard by \$250,000 with the funds directed to either Community Service Providers or the Board of Education.

Ms. Watson indicated that the Remarks in the Howard Community College budget for Belmont show “other funding represents college donations”; however, HCC wants be able to also use student tuition and operating money. There was a discussion of the need for an amendment to the source of funds and whether debt service on an additional capital asset should be based on student tuition. In the event of an amendment, then there will be the opportunity for further discussion at the work session following the public hearing on May 18, 2009.

The work session was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.